



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

July 16, 2004

The Honorable David H. Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby returning without my approval H. 3831, R-410. As I stated in my veto of a virtually identical bill passed last year, I believe that this bill is unduly burdensome and imposes unnecessary regulatory restrictions on a specific group of small businesses in South Carolina.

This bill mandates that nonfranchise automobile dealers complete at least eight hours of prelicensing education courses before they may be issued a license to sell automobiles. These prelicensing requirements do not apply to franchise automobile dealers. To reiterate, I believe government regulations must protect its citizens in a manner that is not unfairly and unduly burdensome to any private industry, including small businesses. This bill unfairly requires mandatory educational training of certain small business licensees when other similar businesses are free from such government regulation. More importantly, prelicensing requirements of this nature are effectively a barrier to entry for a particular group of automobile dealers in the state's automobile sales industry. I maintain my belief that the state can protect automobile consumers in a less restrictive manner.

For these reasons, I am returning H. 3831, R-410 to you without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford
Governor